(c) by when the proposed legislation would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Review and updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process and amendment/fresh legislation are made depending on the result of the review. A number of labour laws have been enacted from time to time to address various aspects of labour which include Freedom of Asssociation and Trade Unions Rights, conditions of work, Minimum Wages, Social security, Labour relations, migrant workers, forced labour, Child labour, equal remuneration for women for same or similar nature of work etc.

There is always a need to review comprehensively the labour laws so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the changes taking place in the economic and social policies and also to provide for health, safety and well-being of the workers. Therefore, it is not feasible at this stage to indicate a fixed time frame to introduce legislation regarding the amendments.

Tribal Status to Gaddies and Gujjars of Himachal Pradesh

*9 SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleaed to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to grant tribal status to the Gaddies and Gujjars of the merged areas of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether these requests also include declaration of Trans Giri areas as Tribal areas in District Sirmour of Himachal Pradesh on the lines of adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh, already declared as Tribal;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The proposal for declaration of Gaddies & Gujjar of merged area as Scheduled Tribes is under examination. Trans Giri area of Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh is not eligible for its declaration as tribal area for want of preponderance of Scheduled Tribe population.

Protection to Indigenous Steel Industry

*10. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Ministery of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous production of steel has been adversely affected due to the import of steel;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review its policy of importing steel; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to protect the indigenous indutry from further loss in production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) During 1997-98, the production of finished steel was 23.37 million tonnes showing an increase of 2.8% over the previous year. However, cheaper imports of some materials have been affecting domestic sales of finished steel items.

(b) and (c) Government has not reduced import duty on steel items in the last 2 years to help Indian steel industry to adjust to lowered tariff rates in the past. To protect the domestic steel industry, an anti dumping duty has recently been recommended on Hot Rolled Coils/Strips/Plates/boiler quality plates imported from Ukraine and Russia.

Streamlining of Air Cargo Operations

*11. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Ministry of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up by his Ministry to study streamlining of air cargo operations has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Group constituted under Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) has concluded that the main causes of high dwell time at Airports are infrastructure constraints and complicated procedures. The Group has

therefore, suggested ways and means to reduce dwell time both for exports and imports.

(c) Government is committed to rationalise procedures and upgrade existing infrastructure with a view to reducing dwell time at Airports. Accordingly, the report has been forwarded to concerned Ministries for further processing and implementation.

औद्योगिक उत्पादन की वार्षिक विकास दर

*12. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**

श्री कपिल सिब्बल्:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सांख्यिकीय संगठन द्वारा हाल ही में प्रकाशित प्रतिवेदन में यह कहा गया है कि वर्ष 1998-99 की पहली छमाही में औद्योगिक उत्पादन (विकास) की वार्षिक दर केवल 3 प्रतिशत होगी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस प्रतिवेदन का अध्ययन करने के उपरांत तथ्यों की जानकारी एकत्र की है;

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान औद्योगिक विकास की वार्षिक दर का क्या अनुमान है; और

(घ) वर्ष 1997-98 की प्रथम छमाही के दौरान प्राप्त यह दर कितनी है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) से (घ) वर्ष 1990-91 से औद्योगिक उत्पादन की वार्षिक विकास दर को नीचे दर्शाया गया है:-

वर्ष	(विकास दर प्रतिशत में)
1990-91	8.3
1991-92	0.6
1992-93	2.3
1993-94	6.0
1994-95	8.4
1995-96	12.7
1996-97	5.6
1997-98	6.6
1998-99 (अप्रैल-सितंबर)	3.6

चालू वर्ष (अप्रैल-सितंबर, 1998) की प्रथम छः महीने की अवधि के दौरान औद्योगिक उत्पादन की विकास दर 3.6 रही, जबकि इसकी तुलना में यह वर्ष 1997-98 की इसी अवधि के दौरान 6.0% थी।

Increase in Exports

*13. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how far the scheme to resurrect the export trade as announced during the Budget Session 1998 has so far helped in improving the exports in respect of different sectors;

(b) whether the exports have generally failed to pick up; and

(c) if so, to what extent, alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sectoral Performance after the announcement of the scheme to resurrect export trade. (Rate of growth over the corresponding period for 1997)

Major Sectors	Growth			
	April-June 98		April-August 98	
	(US$)	(Rupees)	(US$)	(Rupees)
1. Plantation	13.61	29.40	22.49	42.01
2. Agri & allied	-15.54	-3.80	-1.05	14.72
3. Marine products	-6.36	6.65	6.14	23.06
4. Ores & minerals	-37.12	-28.38	-29.72	-18.52
5. Leathers & mfrs.	-12.61	-0.47	-5.25	9.85
6. Gems & Jewellery	17.65	34.01	15.95	34.43
7. Chemicals & related products	-9.71	2.84	-3.58	11.79
8. Engineering goods	-11.78	0.48	-15.27	-1.76
9. Electronic goods	-60.37	-54.86	-34.19	-23.71
10. Textiles	-17.29	-5.79	-7.55	7.19
Total:	-8.04	4.75	-1.98	13.64

As shown in the above table, the export performance during April-August, 1998 has improved from that during April-June, 1998 in all major sectors except engineering goods.

(b) The scheme to resurrect the export trade announced during the Budget Session 1998 has helped in improving the exports. While the cumulative export growth for April-June, 1998 was -8.04% in US Dollar terms and 4.75% in rupee terms over the corresponding figures for last year, the cumulative figures for April-